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MALTA.

Quarantine against Egyptian ports.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 23, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith for your information a copy of a report forwarded to the Department by the consul of the United States at Malta with his dispatch of the 8th instant, in regard to the quarantine at Malta against Egyptian ports.

Respectfully,

JOHN HAY,
Secretary of State.

HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

[Inclosure.]

PASSENGERS LANDING AT MALTA.

VALLETTA, MALTA, May 8, 1900.

In addition to the extract from the Malta Government Gazette appertaining to Malta quarantine regulations sent on May 3, I would say that recently the following section has been added—under the head of 5 should now be inserted: “(c) Every passenger arriving at Malta from any Mediterranean port eastward of Gibraltar shall, before being allowed to land, declare on oath before an inspector of marine police or other superior officer, that he has not been in Egypt within twelve days; whenever such person does not make this declaration on oath, he shall undergo a period of quarantine of twelve days.”

This measure is rendered necessary owing to the spread of smallpox in Egypt, particularly at Cairo, and to an outbreak of plague which has been officially reported. Up to the present it has been learned that there have been 3 cases of plague at Port Said and 2 at Suakim.

A few days ago 2 cases of black smallpox were discovered at St. Julians, a suburb of Valletta, which were directly traceable to persons just arrived here from Egypt. A person connected with the family at St. Julians resided in a lodging house at Valletta. This person was attacked with the disease after the St. Julians discovery. The local government at once took heroic measures and the latter patient and all of the occupants of the house were at once removed to the government lazaretto. One of the St. Julians cases terminated in death.

I am pleased to say that the local health authorities are fully up to date in their methods, and that, owing to their promptness in dealing with the above cases, there is not any danger of a spread of the disease. I might add that the house in Valletta above referred to was at once placed in quarantine and thoroughly fumigated.

Inasmuch as one or more of our vessels from Manila will be returning to the United States by way of the Suez Canal in a few weeks, it might be well to warn them as to holding communication with Egyptian ports, as, judging from the strict quarantine laws put in force at various Mediterranean ports last summer, it might prove awkward should they desire to put in at ports between Port Said and Gibraltar. There is a strong probability, from present indications, that even Aden will be quarantined against—at least it is a likely possibility.

JOHN H. GROUT,
United States Consul.

MEXICO.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, May 19, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended May 19:

Cases of yellow fever, 15; deaths, 7; cases of smallpox, 2; deaths, 2. The general mortality list has not yet been received at this office, but will be forwarded as soon as received.

Five of the yellow fever cases and 3 of the deaths were among the Italian workmen that I reported as having been stranded in the town.

The rumors and reports of yellow fever on the isthmus of Tehuantepec